


Brightlingsea
Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1911.



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Brightlingsea, Essex,

February 1st, 1912.

To the Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report for 1911, together with the Tables required by the Local Government Board and the Home Office.

The Tables at the end of the Report are most important, and form the basis of the Report itself.

Unless otherwise stated, statements made apply to the conditions of the district in 1911 and to the action taken by the Council or their officers in 1911.

Physical Features, Geology, and Climate.

The district is partly salt-water and partly land. The land forms a peninsula, joining the mainland on the north; part of the estuary of the river Colne forms its boundary on the west, and an arm of the estuary, Alresford Creek, forms the boundary on the north-west, and another arm, Brightlingsea Creek, does so on the south and south-east. Two islands of salt marsh land belonging to the district lie in Brightlingsea Creek, making it into two channels for part of its course. The south of these channels is known as St. Osyth's channel. The area of the district extends to the mid stream line of the estuary, the creeks and St. Osyth channel. The area, exclusive of water, is 2,873 acres.

The main central part of the district is a tableland of glacial sand and gravel over London clay. The highest point is 82·5 feet above sea level. The sides of the tableland are of London clay sloping down to marshes of alluvium, 770 acres in extent. These marshes are liable to be submerged by high tides. The greater part of the marsh is protected from the sea by embankments. Deposits of post glacial gravel take the place of the alluvium here and there. The largest and most important deposit is to the south, and reaches from the slope of the tableland down to Brightlingsea creek. This deposit is well above high water mark.

The chief collection of houses has a southerly aspect, and is protected on the north from wind by the rising ground.

The prevailing winds in the first four months of the year are east; during the rest of the year, south-west. The climate is bracing and mild except in the first three months of the year. The air frequently contains moisture, though fog is not very prevalent. Malaria, formerly a common complaint, is now unknown.

Situation and Distribution of Buildings.

The district may be divided into an urban and a rural part. The rural part consists of agricultural land with scattered farm-

houses and cottages, and a few private houses. The urban part occupies part of the south side, from the edge of the tableland down the slope to the waterside. The houses are built principally on the glacial and post glacial sand and gravel. A few are on the London clay and the alluvium. Most of the houses are well built of brick and slated. There are a few ancient timbered houses. Some have been rebuilt partly with brick. Originally big houses, they have been made into several tenements. There are a few weather-boarded houses. There is one thatched house. Many of the houses are detached or semi-detached. There are no long rows of attached houses. There are no cellar dwellings nor back-to-back houses. Three greens provide ample open spaces. The houses are not closely packed together and have ample light and air. The surroundings are clean ; no deposits of filth occurring near to dwellings. The roads are good.

House Accommodation.

There is no lack of suitable houses at reasonable rents. No action has been, nor is, required under the Housing of the Working Classes' Act. This desirable state of affairs may not continue. If heavy burdens for sanitary improvements or other purposes be laid on the ratepayers and rents raised by harsh use of the powers conferred by the Town Planning and Housing Act, the necessity may arise.

Chief Industries.

The majority of the men are employed in yachts during the summer. A few are so employed in the winter also. Dredging for escallops and oysters in the English Channel, or "stowboating" for sprats employs many in the winter. The care of oysters in the river Colne and Brightlingsea creek and St. Osyth's channel, yacht building, boat building, and sailmaking also provide employment. Some are engaged on agricultural land.

A large number of women are employed in tailoring in their own homes.

Population.

The population, according to the census of 1911, was 4,404, against 4,501 in 1901—a decrease of 97. This is the first time that there has been a decrease shown by the census since 1851. The estimated population calculated to the middle of 1911 is 4,402. The estimated yearly decrease is 9·7. The natural increase (*i.e.*, excess of births over deaths) is 11, or if the deaths occurring beyond the district be included, 3. The increase of the 10 years previous to 1901 was 620, a yearly increase of 62. The estimated population, 5,074 of 1910 and those of the immediately preceding years, thus are much above the real population, as was anticipated in my 1909 and 1910 reports. The reason is not far to seek. There has been less employment and still less prospect of it for the

last few years. This has led many young adults to leave the district. In addition, this means a deduction in the number of births. The population contains a relatively large number of children and old people, a fact to be remembered in considering the death and birth rate.

Mortality.

The number of deaths occurring in the district is 61, against 44 last year, and by adding 8 deaths of persons belonging to the district occurring beyond the district, the corrected number 69 is obtained against 45 last year.

Of the deaths occurring beyond the district, 5 occurred in the Tendring Union Workhouse; causes and ages, apoplexy, 84 years; old age, 89 years; pulmonary tuberculosis, 55 years; old age, 87 years; curvature of spine, influenza, bronchitis, 24 years. One death from strangulated femoral hernia at 69 years occurred in Colchester Hospital, and two were the result of accidental drowning.

There are no institutions in the district receiving cases from beyond.

There were three deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases; measles 1, whooping cough 1, and diarrhœa 1; rate per 1,000, 0·6.

The deaths and their causes are tabulated in Table IV.

Infant Mortality.

This death rate (deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 births registered) is 152, against 12· last year. This is the highest infant mortality rate I know of for the district. Arranged according to the time of year the deaths occurred as follows:—

February—Pneumonia, debility from birth, 8 months.

March—Cellulitis, 1 month.

April—Atrophy, malnutrition, 7 months.

August—Epidemic diarrhœa, 5 months.

September—Congenital heart disease, 18 months.

" " 17 days.
Marasmus, 24 days.

Premature birth, 1 hour.

November— " " 9 days.

" " 3 days.

December— " " 5 days.

Six deaths, those from congenital heart disease and premature birth are under present circumstances unpreventible. Possibly the deaths from premature birth were due to the debilitating effect of the very hot summer. Certainly their incidence late in the year suggests it. The four cases of cellulitis, atrophy and marasmus, and pneumonia complicated by debility from birth were probably unpreventible. The one case of epidemic diarrhœa was preventible. It occurred in a family which had only recently come here from a slum neighbourhood and had brought slum habits with

it. One house was very dirty and literally swarmed with flies. This was remedied, but not soon enough. Considering the great heat and drought during the summer, it is satisfactory that there was only one such case.

The Notification of Births Act has not been adopted so far. At present it would not be of real use.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Two deaths have been registered in the district; rate per 1,000 population, 0·4.

There has been no case notified under the Tuberculosis Order, 1908.

Of the two fatal cases, one was notified voluntarily in 1910. Disinfectants were supplied to this case. The houses were disinfected in both cases after death by the Inspector. In the house occupied by one of these cases and the adjoining house, 6 deaths from Tuberculosis have occurred among the inmates in 15 years. What connection the cases had with each other can only be a matter for speculation.

No use of the Council's offer to provide for bacteriological examination of the sputum in doubtful cases has been made. During the year a county scheme for dealing with consumption has been inaugurated. The National Insurance Act also promises to undertake the treatment of, and provision of sanatoriums for, consumptives. Under these circumstances the Council has been well advised to wait and see before embarking on any large scheme. There is no need of a tuberculin dispensary here, but tuberculin might well be supplied for use at the patient's own home.

The place is not suitable for a sanatorium, unless it were for summer use only. The winter here is very bad for consumptives, though they do excellently well in the summer.

Births and Birth-rate.

The births registered number 72, against 82 last year. The birth-rate is 16·5 per 1,000 population. This rate has been falling for some time, and this is the lowest recorded so far.

The population contains a relatively large number of old people and children, and the migration of young married and marriageable people in search of employment has a still further effect in reducing the birth-rate.

Infectious Diseases.

Whooping Cough, Measles.—There was an epidemic of whooping cough in the spring, with one death. In the late summer measles broke out, and continued to the end of the year. There was one death. As is usually noticed, the disease was spread by the schools, and did not stop until all the susceptible children had it. Parents take a fatalistic view of measles, and believe that children must have it, and so do not co-operate in preventing infection or only half-heartedly. There is some hope of a better

attitude coming in time. I have noticed children excluded from a group of children at play by the latter on the ground that they had measles in the family.

Notifiable Diseases.

Erysipelas.—Three cases were notified; one ended fatally.

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases were notified; one case was an adult. The other case was a child who had come to spend the summer holidays here. Her brother joined her here after he had had a 10 weeks' stay in a London fever hospital, where he had been on account of having scarlet fever. A week after he came here she developed scarlet fever. Every precaution seems to have been taken to ensure that the boy was as free from infection as possible. The girl was isolated in the best way possible in the apartments where she stayed, and there was no spread of the disease.

The absence of Typhoid fever for one year in a small population does not mean very much, but the figures for a longer period are more instructive. I have taken them for the 12 years 1900-11, which embraces a period of considerable change in the sanitary conditions of the district. In 1900 there was no sewage works; middens were the rule, and the few drains there were connected with old imperfect sewers which discharged the sewage untreated into the creek. The public water supply was from a polluted source and very insufficient. The water was only turned on for an hour a day, and the day's supply had to stand in each house. Many houses were supplied from surface wells liable to pollution from the middens near by. The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops Order was not in force. Half the roads were in a worse state than ploughed fields, with rotting garbage and filth of various kinds lying about them. The change to the present conditions was gradual. It will be seen from this report that the conditions were in 1911 quite different.

In the 12 years there have been notified 24 cases of typhoid fever, an average of 2 a year. In the first 4 years there were 15 cases, or 3·75 a year; in the second 4 years 7, or 1·75 a year; and in the last 4 years 2 cases, or ·5 a year. Taking the average for each 4 years, the rate per 1,000 population per year is—for 1900-3, ·83; for 1904-7, ·22; and for 1908-11, ·11. The rate per 1,000 population for the urban districts in Essex was ·15 in 1910. Thus the rate for Brightlingsea shows a marked decrease in 12 years, and is now nearly one-third less than the rate for similar districts in the county.

In the case of Diphtheria there is a reduction, but not so regular. In 1903 there were 25 cases; in 1904-7, 30 cases; and in 1908-11, 2 cases. The first set of cases were serious ones. The second set included many very mild cases, and the prevention of the spread of infection among the school children was considerably hampered by the obstacles put in the way of bacteriological examination of the children's throats.

Arrangements for Dealing with Infectious Disease.

On receipt of a notification, inquiry as to origin, &c., is made, printed instructions, and further verbal instructions, if necessary, are given. Inspection of the premises is made when required. Attention to these cases is prompt. As a rule, when a case is seen by a medical man before 1 p.m. and notified, inquiries have been made, instructions given, and disinfectants supplied by 2.30 p.m. the same afternoon. Disinfectants (formaldehyde and chloride of lime) are supplied free. The chloride of lime is used for dustbins and drains. Formaldehyde is an excellent disinfectant, but is difficult to use by unskilled hands. A more easily used disinfectant would be preferable, if equally efficacious.

The disinfection at the end of a case is undertaken by the inspector. For this a formalin spray disinfector is used. No arrangements are made for steam disinfection of bedding and clothing. Should further disinfection be found necessary, destruction of the infected material and payment of the cost of replacement would be cheaper than the provision of a necessarily expensive apparatus. No such destruction has been found necessary.

An isolation hospital, consisting of 2 marquees (double-walled), each containing 6 beds, nurse's tent (double-walled), kitchen, closet, and water cart, completely furnished, is provided. The Council pays a yearly retaining fee for the use of a certain suitable piece of land, on which to erect the hospital at a moment's notice. All the necessary plans and orders for erecting, provisioning, and staffing the hospital are kept ready prepared. The tents are erected every year, so that the men who would have to erect them, when required, are accustomed to the work. The experiment has not been made, but I believe it could be ready in less time than the nurses could be secured.

The question of providing permanent hospital accommodation has again arisen. A hospital for the districts in the Tendring Hundred placed at Tendring has been suggested. Tendring is 10 miles by road from here, and is most inaccessible by rail, and would be very unpopular on that account. If patients are to be moved such a distance, it would be better to join with Colchester.

A permanent hospital capable of dealing with an epidemic of scarlet fever here, and that is the disease most difficult to isolate in a private house, would need not less than 20 beds. The cost of the building and its upkeep would be very heavy. In a district such as this, having almost entirely a working class population, the cost would be a heavy burden on the rates, and would fall most heavily on those least able to bear it.

If it were possible to get the initial case of scarlet fever and isolate it, the matter would be very simple. Unfortunately that cannot be done early enough to ensure the arrest of the disease. That the best managed and equipped hospitals sometimes spread the very disease they are erected to prevent is shown by the case related under the heading *Scarlet Fever*.

That the cost of building and maintaining a permanent hospital is very heavy is shown by the figures relating to the hospitals of this kind in this county contained in the County Medical Officer's Report for 1910. A small permanent hospital would be useful here for dealing with Typhoid fever and Diphtheria, and at a very moderate expense. Even then it is doubtful if the advantage gained would compensate for the cost. Evidence all goes to show that "typhoid carriers" (healthy persons, but disseminating typhoid germs) and healthy persons with diphtheria germs in their throats are very largely the means of spreading the infection of these diseases, so that the gain in isolating persons suffering from these diseases in hospital is not so great as was once believed.

Sewers, Sewage Works, and Disposal of House Refuse.

In the rural part which is outside the area served by the sewers, pit and pail closets are chiefly used. Three pit closets have been converted to pail closets. A few larger houses have cesspools. A few houses within the sewerage area, so situated that they cannot be drained into the sewers, are fitted with earth pail closets; these are emptied by the scavenging contractor. Slop or hand-flushed and tank-flushed closets are allowed. There are approximately 446 tank-flushed closets and 601 slop or hand-flushed closets. The slop closets were allowed with the idea that they would use less water. To be kept clean they use as much water as the others. Most of them are kept clean.

The main sewers discharge into the sewage works situated on marsh land lying south-west of the town. These are conducted on the alumino-ferric precipitation system, and consist of a mixing tank, settling tank, and storage tank. The effluent is stored until it can be discharged into the ebb tide within two hours of high tide. In this way the effluent is carried directly out to sea, and none of it reaches Brightlingsea creek. This was proved by experiments made by the late Dr. Bulstrode before these works were made, and has been corroborated since. One important reason for these sewage works and sewer system was the prevention of pollution of oysters. The sewage used to discharge untreated on to the oyster layings. Under the present scheme the two oyster layings next to the outfall are rented by the Council and are unoccupied. The nearest oyster laying to the outfall is one 800 yards away upstream. The effluent is quite transparent, colourless, free from suspended matter and unpleasant odour. It is said to be tasteless. Its specific gravity is 1000, while that of sea water here is 1018. This means that the effluent, being lighter, floats on the top of the sea water. The sludge from the sewage works is pumped into frames to drain, and then carted on to agricultural land. The water is not all extracted, but the bulk is considerably reduced, lessening the difficulty of removal and increasing its value as manure. When mixed with the ashes from the burnt house refuse, it is in demand as manure.

During the summer there has been considerable smell caused by water used for washing gas in the gas works being discharged into the sewers. It was proved by experiment that the mixture of gas water, sewage, and alumino ferric in solution in the mixing and settling tanks gave off a very offensive gas (a very impure sulphuretted hydrogen, judging by the smell), which interfered with the working of the settling tank. The Gas Company were requested to discontinue the discharge of this gas water into the sewers. Since this has been done the nuisance has stopped. In June I received a communication from Dr. Thresh stating that serious complaints had been made concerning the working of the sewage works. No complaint had been made to me, and on inquiry of those in charge I was assured that no cause of complaint had arisen. A writ has been issued against the Council, and as the case has not yet been settled, it is advisable to postpone further comment. Most of the sewers are new. As a result of house inspection, it has been found that the number of ventilating shafts is insufficient. The Council has decided to place one at the end of a length of sewer now without one. The gratings to the manholes which should act as inlets often act as outlets, especially when a strong south-west wind is blowing. The mouth of the sewer outlet in the sewage works faces south-west, and the walls of the works help to direct the wind into the outlet. Probably the further addition of ventilating shafts will prevent some, if not all, of this.

Scavenging.

House refuse is collected by a contractor and deposited on farm land, where it is burnt. The heap is fired, and burns naturally; no destructor is used. The work is very satisfactorily done.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is no river nor stream in the district. The arms of the sea, Alresford creek and Brightlingsea creek, do not receive any sewage from the Brightlingsea banks. The north bank of the first and the south bank of the latter are in the jurisdiction of the Tendring Rural District Council. As the freedom from pollution is a matter of importance, since there are many oyster layings in Brightlingsea creek, great attention is given to seeing that there is no pollution in any way.

London manure is brought into the district to be used on agricultural land. Unloading of it is prohibited at the public landing place, known as the Hard. In such a place some would be certain to fall on the Hard and be washed into the creek by the next tide.

Water Supply.

The houses and cottages in the rural part rely on wells. These being surface wells are liable to pollution, but as drains and cess-pools are not used except for the larger houses where the water

Fish.

Most of the fish sold is, unless cured, fresh caught. Some iced fish is used for "frying." There is one "fried fish" shop which has been inspected and found clean and well kept.

During the winter months, sprats are largely caught in the Thames estuary and are landed here. The sprat pickling industry, begun a year ago, has been continued this year. When pickled they are sent abroad in barrels to be tinned. The two places where the sprats are pickled and barrelled have been inspected by me. The ground was very damp, but the workmen are fishermen, who wearing sea boots are accustomed to such conditions.

When unsaleable as food, sprats are sold as manure; the carts conveying them are required to be so arranged that they are not shaken out on to the road.

Oysters.

Native, American and Spanish (or Portuguese) oysters are cultivated in large quantities in Brightlingsea creek and St. Osyth's channel. This year was a favourable one for the sale of oysters, but the railway strikes interfered with the sale to seaside resorts during part of the summer. No complaint has been made of oysters from Brightlingsea causing typhoid fever or other disease.

Meat.

There are six slaughter-houses. One was built since the bye-laws were adopted and is well adapted for the purpose. The older houses are not so good, being small and not so well arranged. Two are in occasional use only. 24 inspections have been made by the Inspector and me. No serious faults have been found. I found one rather dirty and partaking more of the nature of a store than of a slaughter-house. It had not been used for some time as a slaughter-house, and could not then be properly used as such until a clearance was made. The owner was warned that it must be clean before he attempted to use it again. No arrangements are made for visiting them when slaughtering, as there is no fixed hour or even days for this to take place. There have been during the year four shops selling Colonial meat, but at the end of the year there were two only.

All the inspection of meat in the slaughter-houses, shops, and carts selling in the streets has been done by me. The Sanitary Inspector has no certificate for proficiency in meat inspection. I have had practical instruction in it, but hold no certificate. No meat was found to be tuberculous and none has been condemned. The supply is good, especially the English meat.

Foods and Drugs Act.

No samples have been taken by the Council's directions. In 1903 I drew attention to the powers possessed by the Council under these Acts, and advised the use of them, especially as regards milk.

The Council were advised that the County Council alone had power to take this action, which advice was, however, wrong.

The County Council Inspector has taken samples here formerly, but I have no information as to any samples taken by them this year.

Workshops and Factories Act, 1901.

The Tables which will be found at the end of this report give the chief information required. There is no factory nor workshop employing more than 40 hands.

The majority of the workshops are in occasional use only and are not provided with sanitary conveniences, but as the occupier's house or a public convenience is quite near, no harm results. The rest have been found satisfactory except one where it was felt that the sanitary convenience was not adequate, and orders were given to provide more. This has not yet been done. Some of the workshops at the waterside are not provided with sanitary conveniences, though the Factory Inspector called the Council's attention to the deficiency in 1909. The Council, after hearing the Sanitary Inspector's report on the workshops in question, decided that except in the case of one there was no injury to the public health arising from the absence of these conveniences. No standard requirement has been fixed under Sec. 22, Public Health Amendment Act, 1890; each case is treated on its merits.

Out-Workers.

Making up clothing, mostly boys' suits, is carried on in many houses by women, and under healthy conditions. 160 Inspections have been made by the Inspector and myself.

Public Elementary Schools.

The three schools are well ventilated, lighted, and kept clean. The standard of cleanliness is the average one, but it is doubtful whether it is high enough for a school. The way in which disease is spread through schools suggests that they cannot be kept too clean, though the spread of infection must not be laid entirely on the buildings. Part of it is due to personal infection.

During the epidemics of whooping cough and measles, the teachers at the schools took a good deal of trouble in keeping me informed of the children who to their knowledge had the disease.

The medical inspection of school children is carried out by officers appointed by the County Council. An interesting report full of information on the work has been received from the Senior School Medical Officer. The grouping is too wide, from which to draw any conclusion as to the health of the children here.

Encampments.

Two fairs are held here annually. In each case the caravans were inspected. No nuisance nor infectious disease was found. A Boys' Brigade Camp on the Recreation Ground was inspected and the sanitary arrangements were good.

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Rats and Plague.

At the end of 1910, the period during which means were taken for the extermination of rats had not expired. At the end of 1910 479 had been caught and cremated, and a further 178, bringing the total up to 657 had been so dealt with at the end of the period arranged. Subsequently 12 rats were caught and sent for bacteriological examination every week for 4 weeks. All were reported to be free from plague. The measures taken to exterminate the rats were not very effectual, as there was no difficulty in obtaining 12 rats in a few hours. It was expected that the price offered would be enough to attract unemployed fishermen who are generally plentiful at that time of year. It so happened that sprats were plentiful and prices good just then, consequently there was a brisk demand for labour and there was not so much rat catching as was expected.

Bye-laws and Adoptive Acts.

Bye-laws are in force dealing with :—

New streets and buildings, nuisances, slaughter-houses.

Prevention of waste, misuse or contamination of water.

Cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops.

When applicable, opportunity is taken to prevent breach of the above when plans for new buildings are submitted for approval. Plans are not submitted to me before being passed. In other instances, offences against these bye-laws are dealt with as they arise.

No bye-laws are required for lodging-houses not for offensive trades. There are no trades which can be considered offensive.

The following Adoptive Acts or parts of Adoptive Acts are in force :—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act. Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, parts i., ii., iv., v.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Part iii. Secs. 35, 38, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51. Part iv. Secs. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68.

Town Planning and Housing Act.

The work of carrying out the necessary inspections was started early in the year. The inspections are made systematically, street by street, so that no house is overlooked, and all being treated alike, no complaint of favouritism can be reasonably made, as it well might be if certain houses only were selected. The number of houses inspected is 430. The number of houses where faults

were found is 85. No house was ordered to be closed nor demolished. The faults generally were of a minor nature. The fault which I believe would have been most apparent was that of wet back-yards, or their equivalents, had it not been for the dry weather. Many of the inspections were made during the long dry summer, and so of this and the condition of roofs and gutters there was no test to judge by. There has been a certain amount of opposition to these systematic inspections from interested persons, but the information alone obtained makes them necessary, while they lead to tenants obtaining healthier houses than they otherwise would. At the same time, the powers which this Act gives must be used reasonably, or they may help a dishonest tenant to live rent free.

General.

The exceptionally hot dry summer was even drier here than in the neighbourhood. Fortunately there was only one death from epidemic diarrhoea. As far as my information goes, there was very little diarrhoea among children. From August onwards there was a considerable amount of diarrhoea, accompanied by abdominal pain and vomiting, among adults. It was most frequent while the hot weather lasted, and gradually decreased as the cold weather set in, but had not quite ceased at the end of the year. Probably the disease was microbic in origin. Printed instructions were issued giving advice with the object of helping people to avoid disease which otherwise might arise as a result of the hot weather.

The absence of typhoid fever is very satisfactory. The hot summer and wet autumn favoured the spread of that disease, and there has been a considerable excess above the average of cases notified in the county for the last quarter of the year. Why Brightlingsea should have escaped when other districts have suffered is not clear. There has been no diminution in the consumption of oysters. Sea bathing in the creek has been indulged in to an extent never before known. If our oysters are polluted, the source of pollution is in the sea water, and as bathing in polluted water is a well known (or well stated) source of typhoid fever, there ought to have been plenty of cases here. I believe it is in the abundant light, fresh air, and general cleanliness (in a wide sense) of the place that the explanation is to be found.

Inspections.

Inspections, made by me, excluding those made as a result of complaint or of existence of disease, number 121. The Inspector's report of work done will give an idea of the inspections and work done by him.

Rats and Plague.

At the end of 1910, the period during which means were taken for the extermination of rats had not expired. At the end of 1910 479 had been caught and cremated, and a further 178, bringing the total up to 657 had been so dealt with at the end of the period arranged. Subsequently 12 rats were caught and sent for bacteriological examination every week for 4 weeks. All were reported to be free from plague. The measures taken to exterminate the rats were not very effectual, as there was no difficulty in obtaining 12 rats in a few hours. It was expected that the price offered would be enough to attract unemployed fishermen who are generally plentiful at that time of year. It so happened that sprats were plentiful and prices good just then, consequently there was a brisk demand for labour and there was not so much rat catching as was expected.

Bye-laws and Adoptive Acts.

Bye-laws are in force dealing with :—

New streets and buildings, nuisances, slaughter-houses.

Prevention of waste, misuse or contamination of water.

Cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops.

When applicable, opportunity is taken to prevent breach of the above when plans for new buildings are submitted for approval. Plans are not submitted to me before being passed. In other instances, offences against these bye-laws are dealt with as they arise.

No bye-laws are required for lodging-houses not for offensive trades. There are no trades which can be considered offensive.

The following Adoptive Acts or parts of Adoptive Acts are in force :—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act. Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, parts i., ii., iv., v.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Part iii. Secs. 35, 38, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51. Part iv. Secs. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68.

Town Planning and Housing Act.

The work of carrying out the necessary inspections was started early in the year. The inspections are made systematically, street by street, so that no house is overlooked, and all being treated alike, no complaint of favouritism can be reasonably made, as it well might be if certain houses only were selected. The number of houses inspected is 430. The number of houses where faults

were found is 85. No house was ordered to be closed nor demolished. The faults generally were of a minor nature. The fault which I believe would have been most apparent was that of wet back-yards, or their equivalents, had it not been for the dry weather. Many of the inspections were made during the long dry summer, and so of this and the condition of roofs and gutters there was no test to judge by. There has been a certain amount of opposition to these systematic inspections from interested persons, but the information alone obtained makes them necessary, while they lead to tenants obtaining healthier houses than they otherwise would. At the same time, the powers which this Act gives must be used reasonably, or they may help a dishonest tenant to live rent free.

General.

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Inspections.

Inspections, made by me, excluding those made as a result of complaint or of existence of disease, number 121. The Inspector's report of work done will give an idea of the inspections and work done by him.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total Cases re- moved to Hos- pital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages||—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (in- cluding Mem- branous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis:—									
Under Tubercu- losis Regula- tions, 1908.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Under Tubercu- losis Regula- tions, 1911.....									
Others .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*									
Totals.....	5	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...

NOTES.—State in space below the name and position within or without the district of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent, the accommodation available for the district afforded by it, and the name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided.

* This space may be used for record of other diseases the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

|| These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Portable Tent :

Total available beds	12
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ...	2

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

(see Note (a).)

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes {	Certified	6	1	0	1	8	0	1	2	0	11
	Uncertified ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{	Small-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Chicken-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Scarlet fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Diphtheria and Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Diarrhœa.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
{	Enteritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Congenital Malformations (c)	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
{	Premature Birth	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
{	Atrophy, Debility, and										
{	Marasmus	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
{	Atelectasis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Injury at birth .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Syphilis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Rickets .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Meningitis (not Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Convulsions.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Gastritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Laryngitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Bronchitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Pneumonia (all forms) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{	Suffocation, overlying .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Other causes .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
		6	1	...	1	8	...	1	2	...	11

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 70 ; illegitimate, 2.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 11 ; illegitimate infants, 0.

NOTES TO TABLE IV.

(a) The total in the last column of Table IV. should equal the total in column 10 of Table I., and in column 3 of Table III.

(b) Under Abdominal Tuberculosis are to be included deaths from Tuberculous Peritonitis and Enteritis and from Tabes Mesenterica.

(c) The total deaths from Congenital Malformations, Premature Birth, Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus, should equal the total in Table III. under the heading Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth.

Want of Breast Milk should be included under Atrophy and Debility.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

Table III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death, during the Year 1911

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of residents or non-residents in institutions in district.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 2 years.	2 & under 5 years.	5 & under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 & up- wards.		
All causes { Certified { Uncertified	69 0	11 0	2 0	0 0	3 0	3 0	4 0	12 0	34 0	:: ::	
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis)	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...
Turberculous Meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
Bronchitis.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all other forms) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicits and Typhlitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Pre- mature Birth	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...
Suicides.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Other Defined Diseases.....	40	1	1	...	1	...	1	8	28	...	
Diseases ill-defined or un- known .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	69	11	2	...	3	3	4	12	34	...	

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PHTHISIS: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

Classes for which accommodation is provided.	By whom provided.	Where situated.	Total number of Beds.	How are patients selected?	Are patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer?	What charge, if any, is made for the use of Beds?	Do the Sanitary Authority use— (1) Their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-Pox Hospital for cases of Phthisis?	Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium; If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium?	Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable open-air Shelters or Tents?
(a) Early cases	None	...	...	.....	.....	.....	No	No	No
(b) Intermediate cases ...	None	...	...	.....	.....	.....	No	No	No
(c) Advanced cases)	None	...	...	.....	.....	.....	No	No	No

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary? If so, give particulars..... No.

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES,
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
Factories (including Factory Laundries).....	1	1	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	16	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises (included in Part 3 of this Report).....	...	...	...
Total	17	1	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Number of Defects.</i>			
	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</i>	<i>No. of Prosecutions.</i>
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : †</i>				
Want of cleanliness
Want of ventilation
Overcrowding
Want of drainage of floors.....
Other nuisances
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	1	...	...	...
" " unsuitable or defective
" " not separate for sexes
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101).....
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)
	1	...	...	...

† Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

Bakehouses	14
Others	32
<hr/>	
Total number of Workshops on Register	46

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)...	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) }	Notified by H.M. Inspector
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector...
Other .....	...

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :

Certificates granted during the year .....	...
In use at the end of the year .....	...

Foresters' Hall, Brightlingsea, Essex,

February 1st, 1912.

To the Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for 1911, together with the tables as required by the Regulations of the Local Government Board.

Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 11. They were—Drains blocked, heaps of manure on gardens, chicken courts too near dwellings.

All have been dealt with by me and abated.

Nuisances Detected Without Complaints.

The number detected was 64 ; of these, 55 were abated, and 9 in hand. They were—(1) Sewer gas escaping into the closets of 3 dwellings, this being due to no interceptor or ventilating shaft. (2) In 2 dwellings the sink waste was untrapped, and allowed to flow through pipes on to gully in yard, a distance in one case of 13 feet, and in the other of 21 feet.

Fresh air inlets damaged	20
Drains blocked	6
Defective gullies	2
Ventilating shafts removed	1
Ventilating shafts not fixed and defective	4
Closet pans broken or cracked.....	6
Rain water pipes blocked	3
Rain water gutters leaking	5
Bad floors in w.c.'s.....	1
Bad floors in dwellings	1
Rain water tank covers in bad condition	1
Gully grates broken	2
Yards in bad condition	1

Notices Served.

Four statutory notices have been served. Three of these were for re-draining, and one for converting a closet midden into a pail closet.

Two have been carried out, and 2 are in hand.

Informal Notices.

The number of informal notices sent to the various owners calling their attention to defects, and which are mentioned under the heading of *Nuisances Detected Without Complaints*, was 46.

Houses Inspection.

The number of houses inspected was 360. In 64 of these various small defects were found. In all these cases I issued informal notices or saw the owners personally. The whole of the particulars of house inspection is tabulated in Wright's loose leaf pocket books arranged for Sanitary Inspectors.

Slaughter-houses.

Each slaughter-house (6) was inspected three times during the year, and found clean and fresh limewashed.

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the district is 14. I inspected them twice, and in both cases found them in a satisfactory condition, with the exception of one. In this case the floor required repairing. The owner's attention was called to this defect, and was at once put right.

Workshops.

The number of workshops inspected was 11. I found them to be well lighted, ventilated, kept in a clean state, not overcrowded, and sanitary arrangements provided for, with the exception of one, In this case the workmen used a privy with midden.

An order was served to connect same to the Council's sewer.

Houses Disinfected.

Two houses were disinfected, comprising the rooms used by persons dying from consumption.

Earth Closets Converted into Slop Closets.

The number of earth closets connected to the Council's sewers was 11.

The connecting of these to sewers is a decided improvement, not only from a sanitary point of view, but also from the tenants' point of view. In all the above cases the closets were at the bottom of gardens. They were pulled down, and re-erected against kitchens which abut the dwellings.

Water Samples.

Three samples of water were taken for analysis—

- One from the Town Supply, Church Road,
- One from the Old Water-works, Well Street,
- One from the Public Spring, Church Road.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. V. LORD,

Inspector.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Brightlingsea, during the Year ending December 31st, 1911.

	Total Number for Year.
Complaints received	11
Nuisances detected without complaint	64
Nuisances abated	55
Notices served	4
Summonses taken out ... ..	...
Convictions ... ..	...
Cottages inspected	360
Lodging-houses inspected	None existing
Slaughter-houses inspected	18
Bakehouses inspected	28
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected ... ..	...
Cowsheds inspected	4
Workshops inspected	11
Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875... ..	...
Houses disinfected	2
Overcrowding abated ... ..	...
Houses placed in habitable repair ... ..	...
Houses closed ... ..	...
Houses erected or rebuilt for which Water "Certificates" were applied	2
"Certificates" granted... ..	4
Ditto deferred ... ..	...
Wells sunk or improved supplies of Water afforded ... ..	...
Wells cleansed or repaired ... ..	...
Wells closed... ..	...
Houses connected with sewers	3
Ditto re-connected	9
Ditto connected with water mains	4
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	11
W.C.'s supplied with water	4
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered ... ..	...
Animals improperly kept removed... ..	...
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	3
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ... ..	...
Seizures of unsound Meat, &c. ... ..	...

(Signed) H. V. LORD,

Inspector.